



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

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Gibraltar delegation heads for the United Nations

The Chief Minister Fabian Picardo and the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia leave Gibraltar for the United Nations in New York today.

The Chief Minister will be addressing the UN Committee of 24 on Friday. A number of meetings and a media call have also been organised. There will also be a dinner with the Gibraltar-American society.

The Leader of the Opposition was invited to attend but will not be doing so this time round. The policy of the Government is to encourage participation from representative organisations (NGOs) in the same way as happens with other territories. The Government also wants young people from Gibraltar to engage in this process and in this way inform younger generations from the comprehensive schools as to what happens at the UN and the importance to Gibraltar of the deliberations.

In order to achieve this the Chief Minister and his Deputy will, at this first C24 session since the change of Government, be holding meetings with officials of the Committee of 24 to facilitate attendance by NGO's and young Gibraltarians at forthcoming meetings of the UN.

It will be recalled that the Government has a manifesto commitment to continue to attend meetings of the of the UN Committee of 24 in June and of the 4th Committee in October for as long as Gibraltar remains on the UN list of non self-governing territories.

During the absence of Mr Picardo and Dr Garcia from Gibraltar, Minister for Health and the Environment Dr John Cortes will act as Chief Minister.